

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENIV, ETOR,CT

SUBJECT: EXPROPRIATION OF MOBIL AND TEXACO INTEREST IN CAR

REF: STATE 030989

1. AF/C COUNTRY DIRECTOR MET WITH MOBIL OIL REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT KELLY, MAY 21 AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO REVIEW SITUATION RE MOBIL NATIONALIZED PROPERTIES IN CAR AND CONGO. RE CAR, REP VERIFIED INFO PROVIDED PARA 1 REFTEL REGARDING MOBIL'S SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS TO GOCAR LAST FALL. ACCORDING TO COMPANY REP DOCUMENTATION FOR ASSETS OF DOLLARS 557,000 SUBMITTED THROUGH FORMER DIRECTOR CENTRA-HYDRO, JEAN-JACQUES N'GOMA TO MINISTER OF ENERGY, FRANCOIS GON. MOBIL SPECULATING THAT REMOVAL OF N'GOMA PROBABLY
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RESPONSIBLE FOR LACK OF FOLLOW-UP BY GOCAR SINCE IT

POSSIBLE THAT DOCUMENTS NEVER GOT BEYOND HIS OFFICE.

2. MOBIL REPORTED TO HAVE LEARNED THROUGH ITS AFRICA. REP THAT GOCAR AUTHORITIES AT ONE POINT STATED THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT TO SETTLE CLAIMS OF US FIRMS SEPARATELY, THUS IMPLYING THAT DELAY IN MOVING TOWARD SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE DUE TO TEXACO SLOWNESS IN FILING DOCUMENTATION.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WITH MOBIL REP, AF/C CONTACTED TEXACO TO DETERMINE STATUS OF COMPANY'S CLAIM. TEXACO REP JEAN POUPEAU, SAID THAT COMPANY HAD SUBMITTED CLAIM FOR DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION TO GOCAR (CENTRA-HYDRO) ON MARCH 3, 1975. TEXACO ALSO CLAIMING ASSETS OF DOLLARS 439,000 WHICH REPRESENTS PROPERTY TIED UP IN JOINT STORAGE FACILITIES WITH GOCAR. TEXACO REP RESIDENT IN CAMEROON REPORTEDLY MET WITH CENTRA-HYDRO OFFICIALS ON APRIL 15. (UNBEKNOWNST TO AF/C, TEXACO REPS HAD ALSO CALLED ON STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISOR ON SAME DAY TO DISCUSS EXPROPRIATION IN FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING CAR. TEXACO REPS REQUESTED THAT US EMBASSIES IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESS THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS.)

4. MOBIL AS WELL AS TEXACO HAS REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS CLAIMS WITH GOCAR. AF/C REMINDED COMPANIES THAT EMBASSY HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP THEIR CASES WITH GOCAR IMMEDIATELY AFTER NATIONALIZATIONS AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS. MOBIL SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT ANY EMBASSY INTERVENTION ON ITS BEHALF BE LOW KEY. MOBIL CONTINUES TO SELL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO GOCAR VIA IRREVERSIBLE LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DOES NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE POSSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ALONG THESE LINES.

5. IT APPEARS FROM DISCUSSION WITH AF/C THAT NEITHER COMPANY IS INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE OTHER INFORMED OF ITS ACTIVITIES REGARDING ATTEMPTS TO SEEK COMPENSATION FROM GOCAR. BOTH COMPANIES AWARE THAT GOCAR LEGISLATION HAS NO EXPRESS PROVISIONS FOR COMPENSATION. BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPANIES ALSO APPEAR FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH AF/C TO BE AWARE OF PENURIOUS STATE OF GOCAR AND NEITHER APPEARS TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT RAPID COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT WILL BE REACHED.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY PURSUE MATTER WITH CENTRA-HYDRO OFFICIALS OR WITH ENERGY MINISTER GON IN ORDER TO DETERMINE GOCAR INTENTIONS REGARDING COMPENSATION. INGERSOLL

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